

BROWN AMENDMENT #310

Description of Amendment: This amendment amends the grant program included in the Victim-Centered Child Human Trafficking Deterrence Block Grant Program to provide grants to local law enforcement agencies to find homeless and runaway youth. These funds would include salaries and associated expenses for retired federal law enforcement officers assisting in these investigations.

Background

- Experts agree that runaway youth are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of sex trafficking **as they are considered** easy targets for traffickers.
- Time is literally of the essence when it comes to runaway youth. About one-third of all runaways are trafficked and it happens often within 2 weeks of them running away. Locating and finding runaway youth is essential to providing the services that they need.
- Amendment 310 is inspired by retired FBI agents from NW Ohio. Toledo has just one detective working on missing person's cases, both adult and children – these retired FBI agents want to help law-enforcement officials investigate the 18,000 runaways in Ohio every year, but they additional resources are needed. Police don't have the manpower to track these children but every city has retired agents who could assist the "overworked" departments.
- The Dallas Police Department has also found a strong correlation between sex trafficking and runaway status. Other research has found that the majority of prostituted women were runaways.